

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOGADI 00755 271327Z

44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PRS-01 DODE-00 EB-07 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

L-03 NEA-10 AGR-05 EA-06 /077 W

----- 074282

R 270905Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2911

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0755

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SO

SUBJECT: TALK WITH SOMALI SECSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OMAR ARTEH

REF: MOGADISCIO 757

SUMMARY

I MET WITH SECSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OMAR ARTEH ON MAY 26 TO REVIEW OUTSTANDING BILATERAL PROBLEMS. TALK WITH ARTEH CAME AS RESULT OF MY MAY 23 DISCUSSION WITH SOMALI AMBASSADOR ADDOU, WHO PASSED ON TO ARTEH MY SUGGESTION THAT SUCH A TALK MIGHT BE USEFUL. I BELIEVE ADDOU FELT SUCH AN EXCHANGE MIGHT SUPPORT HIS OWN INITIATIVES AS WELL PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON. TALK WITH ARTEH YIELDED LITTLE OF SIGNIFICANCE HOWEVER. I MENTIONED SECRETARY SCHOLESINGER'S RECENT COMMENTS ON SOVIET FACILITIES AT BERBERA, WHICH ARTEH DECLINED TO PURUSE. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT DATE FOR US SHIP VISIT TO SOMALIA NOW BEING ARRANGED. I ALSO ASKED HIM FOR HIS VIEWS ABOUT SOMALIA'S CURRENT POLITICAL ORIENTATION, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS ONE OF TRUE NON-ALIGNMENT. HE PROMISED TO ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING BILATERAL PROBLEMS -- EMBASSY COMPOUND PROBLEM IN PARTICULAR -- AND COMPLIMENTED US FOR ITS POLITICAL COURAGE IN LEAVING VIETNAM. END SUMMARY

1. I REVIEWED FOR ARTEH EXTENT OF US DROUGHT ASSISTANCE AND TOLD HIM SHIPMENTS OF BULGUR WHEAT (10,000 MT) AND SORGHUM (5,000 MT) EXPECTED SHORTLY. US WAS ALSO WILLING CONSIDER ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOGADI 00755 271327Z

ASSISTANCE IF DROUGHT EMERGENCY CONTINUED BEYOND PRESENT PROJECTIONS.

SITUATION NOT RPT NOT CLEAR NOW BUT WE WERE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH GSDR DROUGHT RELIEF COMMITTEE AND UNDP REGARDING DROUGHT DEVELOPMENTS.

2. ANY US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BEYOND EMERGENCY RELIEF REQUIRED GSDR ACTION TO REMOVE EXISTING LEGAL AND OTHER BARRIERS. I BRIEFLY DESCRIBED SOMALI-FLAG SHIPPING PROBLEM, SERVICING OF PREVIOUS AID LOANS, MOGADISCIO WATER LOAN IN PARTICULAR -- AND EMBASSY COMPOUND PROBLEM. REGARDING LATTER, I NOTED THAT GSDR HAD BLOCKED CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COMPOUND FOR NUMBER OF YEARS AND HAD THUS TIED UP MORE THAN US\$ 1.5 MILLION IN CONGRESSIONALLY APPROPRIATED FUNDS. END WAS STILL NOT RPT NOT IN SIGHT AND WE WANTED TO GET THIS PROBLEM SETTLED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. ARTEH SAID HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD TO RESOLVE THESE MATTERS. HE WAS EMPHATIC IN HIS PROMISE TO TACKLE THE COMPOUND PROBLEM IMMEDIATELY AND ASSURED ME THAT I COULD EXPECT ACTION ON COMPOUND WITHIN NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. THIS WAS -- HE REITERATED -- A SOLEMN PROMISE.

4. TURNING TO OTHER MATTERS, I TOLD HIM THAT I UNDERSTOOD FROM AMBASSADOR ADDOU THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENTS REGARDING SOVIET FACILITIES AT BERBERA HAD GREATLY DISTURBED MANY SOMALI OFFICIALS, INCLUDING HIMSELF. WHATEVER DIFFERENCES OF OPINION MIGHT EXIST ABOUT MOST DISCREET WAY TO HANDLE THIS SUBJECT, AND WHATEVER URGE THERE MIGHT BE TO RATIONALIZE IT -- AS AMBASSADOR ADDOU HAD DONE -- WHOLLY IN TERMS OF DIEGO GARCIA -- FACT REMAINED THAT US GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT SOVIET FACILITIES AT BERBERA AND SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENTS REFLECTED THAT CONCERN.

5. ARTEH DID NOT RPT COMMENT EXCEPT TO SAY THAT GSDR OFFICIALS WERE INDEED SERIOUSLY DISTURBED ABOUT SCHLESINGER STATEMENTS. HE DID NOT RPT NOT PURSUE SUBJECT.

6. HE DID SAY THAT BOTH HE AND PRESIDENT SIAD HAD BEEN DISTRESSED TO LEARN QUOTE UPON THEIR RETURN UNQUOTE THAT PAPERS FORWARDING THEIR REQUEST TO GSDR AGENCIES FOR US SHIP VISIT QUOTE HAD BEEN MISPLACED UNQUOTE AND THEIR ORDERS THUS HAD NOT BEEN CARRIED OUT. MISUNDERSTANDINGS NOW OVERCOME, HOWEVER, AND ACTION BEING TAKEN TO ARRANGE DATE FOR US SHIP VISIT. WHEN I ASKED ARTEH WHEN INITIAL DECISION HAD BEEN GIVEN, HE LOOKED PAINED AND SAID QUOTE TWO MONTHS AGO UNQUOTE. SINCE I

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOGADI 00755 271327Z

CAN'T IDENTIFY AND PERIOD TWO MONTHS AGO WHEN SIAD WAS OUT OF COUNTRY

,
I CAN ONLY ASSUME ADDOU'S ARRIVAL IN MOGADISCIO SCENE HAS BROUGHT ISSUE TO LIFE AGAIN. I DID NOT RPT NOT COMMENT, SINCE I HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT WISDOM OF ANY US SHIP VISIT PRIOR TO ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT IN MOGADISCIO, EVEN IF GSDR EXTENDED INVITATION.

7. WE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY SOMALIA'S ASPIRATIONS IN AFRICA

AND IN ARAB

LEAGUE. DURING DISCUSSION I TOLD HIM MOST EFFECTIVE ARAB COUNTRY IN BLACK AFRICA -- TO MY MIND -- WAS ALGERIA. ALGERIA WAS ALSO NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY. ONE KNEW USUALLY EXACTLY WHERE ALGERIA STOOD, BUT I WASN'T ALWAYS CERTAIN WHERE SOMALIA STOOD. I WONDERED HOW ARTEH WOULD COMPARE SOMALIA'S POLITICAL ORIENTATION -- SAY -- WITH ALGERIA'S. ARTEH GAVE BRIEF HISTORY OF SOMALIA'S STRUGGLE SINCE 1969 TO CREATE AUTHENTIC SOMALI SOCIALISM AND ASSURED ME THAT SOMALIA'S POLITICAL ORIENTATION WAS IDENTICAL WITH THAT OF ALGERIA -- ONE OF TRUE NON-ALIGNMENT.

8. ARTEH THEN SAID HE WANTED TO EXPRESS HIS ADMIRATION FOR US DECISION TO LEAVE VIETNAM. THIS WAS, HE THOUGHT , A MOST DIFFICULT DECISION FOR US IN VIEW OF US MILITARY POWER, WHICH COULD HAVE TOTALLY ANNIHILATED NORTH VIETNAM AND REDUCED IT TO RUBBLE HAD US LEADERS SO CHOSEN. IT WAS ALWAYS DIFFICULT FOR STRONG MAN TO SURRENDER HIS STRENGTH OUT OF PRINCIPLE BUT US HAD DONE THIS IN VIETNAM AND DESERVED TO BE COMPLIMENTED FOR THAT DECISION. HE WANTED ME TO KNOW HOW HE FELT.

9. I SAID I APPRECIATED HIS COMMENTS, WHICH WERE SOMEWHAT RARE IN SOMALIA, WHERE DAILY PRESS HAD CONSISTENTLY ATTRIBUTED VIETNAM VICTORY TO NATIONAL LIBERATION FORCES MOVING ON IRREVERSIBLE TIDE OF HISTORY. ARTEH SAID THAT YOUNG SOMALI JOURNALISTS AND HEADLINE SEEKERS WORKING IN SOMALI MEDIA DID NOT RPT NOT ALWAYS REFLECT FEELINGS OF GSDR OR SOMALI PEOPLE. SOMALI PEOPLE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR US DROUGHT ASSISTANCE, WHILE MOGADISCIO CITY DWELLERS ALSO GRATEFUL FOR US HELP IN PROVIDING THEM WITH DAILY SUPPLY OF CLEAR POTABLE WATER. FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AGO, US AMBASSADOR IN SOMALIA RISKED INSULT OR INJURY AT HANDS OF SOMALI PEOPLE WHEN HE TRAVELLED STREETS BUT NOW HE WAS WARMLY RECEIVED WHEREVER HE WENT. HE HOPED US COULD FIND WAY TO BUILD ON THAT GOOD WILL.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOGADI 00755 271327Z

10. ARTEH IS FAR FROM CENTER OF POWER IN GSDR BUT HAS SURVIVED BECUASE OF HIS ABILITY TO PUT BEST POSSIBLE FACE ON SOMALI POLITICS FOR OUTSIDE OBSERVERS, IN AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST. ARABS LIKE HIM AND SO DO AFRICANS. HE HAS BECOME IN TIME ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE AND IF IN THAT ROLE HE AVOIDS CANDOR OR STRAIGHT TALK, IT IS BECAUSE THESE ARE NOT RPT NOT QUALITIES WHICH WOULD GET HIM VERY FAR IN CARRYING OUT SIAD'S AMBITIONS.
HAMRICK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, FOOD ASSISTANCE, AFDROUGHT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOGADI00755
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750184-1012
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750517/aaaaapac.tel
Line Count: 162
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MOGADISCIO 757
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALK WITH SOMALI SECSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OMAR ARTEH
TAGS: PFOR, US, SO, (ARTEH, OMAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006